

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 27, with the following amended paragraph:

A reflectometer 40 is secured to platen 24 generally beneath hole 26 and rotates with the platen. The reflectometer includes a light source 44 and a detector 46. The light source generates a light beam 42 which propagates through transparent window 36 and slurry 38 (see FIG. 3) to impinge upon the exposed surface of substrate 10. For example, the light source 44 may be laser and the light beam 42 may be a collimated laser beam. The light laser beam 42 is projected from laser 44 at an angle from an axis normal to the surface of substrate 10, i.e., at an angle from axes 25 and 81. In addition, if the hole 26 and window 36 are elongated, a beam expander (not illustrated) may be positioned in the path of the light beam to expand the light beam along the elongated axis of the window. As for the wavelength of the laser beam, it is feasible to employ a wavelength anywhere from the far infrared to ultraviolet. Laser 44 may operate continuously. Alternatively, the laser may be activated to generate laser beam 42 during a time when hole 26 is generally adjacent substrate 10.